

Assisting Students with Severe Allergies: Epinephrine Auto-injector Training Module

This training module was developed by South Carolina's School Nurse Program Advisory Committee as a guide for school nurses when training identified unlicensed assistive personnel to assist specific students with known severe allergies who may experience anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis may result in death; a quick response with the appropriate medication is critical. Trained responders must always be available.

Prior to training unlicensed school staff, school nurses should review the South Carolina Board of Nursing Advisory #50 *"Is it within the role and scope of a licensed nurse practicing in a school setting to select, train, determine competency and evaluate unlicensed school personnel in the provision of treatments and the administration of medications required to meet a specific student's needs in the event that a medical emergency occurs when a licensed nurse is not readily available?"* located on the Board of Nursing's website at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=advisoryop.htm>.

July 2006

Assisting Students with Severe Allergies: Epinephrine Auto-injector Training Module

Goal:

To provide education and training for identified school personnel to assist specific students with known severe allergies in the event of anaphylaxis.

Instruction Methods:

Lecture, Discussion, Demonstration, Hands-On Practice

Recommended Training Frequency:

Following the initial training, the trainee should receive a training update at the beginning of each school year and near the middle of each school year. The registered nurse may determine that additional updates are warranted.

Materials Needed:

- Applicable school district policies
- School district documentation forms
- Specific student's Individual Health Care Plan and Emergency Action Plan
- Epinephrine Auto-injector Trainer with instructions
- Epinephrine Auto-injector with instructions (for specific student)
- Copy of test and check off sheet
- Completion certificate

Two copies of all training materials and instructions (one for trainee and one for placement in trainee's file as documentation of instructions given)

Resources:

- ✓ American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (www.aaaai.org)
- ✓ Anapen (www.anapen.com) (www.anapen.com/a_anapen/a_anapen.htm)
- ✓ EpiPen (www.allergic-reactions.com) (www.allergic-reactions.com/pdf/PatientInsert.pdf) (www.allergic-reactions.com/howtouse.aspx)
- ✓ Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (www.foodallergy.org)
- ✓ Litarowsky, Murphy, & Carham (October 2004). Evaluation of an Anaphylaxis Training Program for Unlicensed Assistive Personnel, The Journal of School Nursing, 20(5), 279 – 284.
- ✓ National Association of School Nurses, Position Statement: The Role of School Nurses in Allergy/Anaphylaxis Management. (www.nasn.org)
- ✓ Twinject (www.twinject.com) (www.twinject.com/hcp/useinstru.asp)

Training Schedule

Minutes noted represent an estimated length of time for each section of the training module.

Actual times may vary.

Training Overview

20 minutes

1. Purpose
2. Contents
3. Requirements for Receiving Certificate of Completion
4. What the Certificate of Completion Means
5. Applicable School District Policies and Procedures
6. Questions / Answers
7. Pre-test

Anaphylaxis Basics

20 minutes

1. What is anaphylaxis?
2. What causes anaphylaxis?
3. What are common signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis?
4. How is anaphylaxis treated?
5. What is epinephrine?
6. What are the side effects of epinephrine?
7. How is epinephrine packaged and stored?
8. Questions / Answers

Student Specific Instructions

15 minutes

1. Confidentiality
2. Individual Health Care Plan
3. Emergency Action Plan
4. Questions / Answers

Responding in Case of Anaphylaxis

45 minutes

1. Standard Precautions
2. Use of Epinephrine Auto-injector
 - a. Verbal and written description
 - b. Demonstration (use video if available)
 - c. Return demonstration
3. Scenarios / Practice Time
4. Questions / Answers

Documentation & Reporting

15 minutes

1. Forms
2. What to Document
3. Reporting Requirements
4. Questions / Answers

Written Test & Skills Check Off (*Grade test at the time of completion.*)

Suggested Standard: Trainee should score 100% on the written post test and on the skills check off.

If test score and/or skills check off unsatisfactory:

Written test and the skills check off may be taken again if score is below 100% on first attempt. If either the written test or the skills check off score is below 100% on the second attempt, additional instruction may be provided and the trainee may be allowed to attempt the test and check off again on another day. If the third attempt is unsatisfactory the trainee should not be assigned to respond in the event of an anaphylactic episode. Trainees should be advised that all student-specific information shared during the training session must be kept confidential.

If test score and skills check off satisfactory:

Review Student Specific Assignment

15 minutes

1. Individual Health Care Plan
2. Emergency Action Plan
3. Schedule Time for Meeting Student (*Schedule a time for the student and the trainee to meet if the school administrator has already agreed with the assignment for the trainee. The student's parent/legal guardian should be included in the meeting if possible.*)
4. Location of Medications / Supplies
5. Questions / Answers

Certificate of Completion

5 minutes

1. Review Limits
2. Review Reporting Requirements
3. Questions / Answers